



# *City of Steubenville*

## *Planning and Zoning Commission*

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### **Tips for Being a Good Off-Campus Neighbor**

This information is provided by the City of Steubenville and offers suggestions for Franciscan University students for being a good neighbor and being a good housemate. There are several things to consider when living off-campus.

#### **Being a Good Neighbor**

The City of Steubenville is a diverse mixture of families with young children, the elderly, and students. Those surrounding the University may call Steubenville home for as long as their entire lives, or as little as one academic year.

As a member of the community, you share the responsibility of keeping your neighborhood clean, safe, and peaceful with your neighbors. Your actions will reflect not only on yourself but on the University as well. Get to know your neighbors and act courteously towards them. Together you can make your neighborhood a great place to live.

#### **Noise and Social Gatherings**

Noise is the most common complaint about students living off campus. Be polite by keeping stereos and voices from being heard across property lines. If you are having a gathering, the following suggestions may help insure that you have a successful gathering while staying on good terms with your neighbors.

Do...

- Inform your neighbors in advance that you are having a gathering. Leave them your name and number and encourage them to call you before they call the police so you can take care of the problem.
- Use invitations, not flyers. Open gatherings can easily get out of control.
- Remind your guests to park legally, not on lawns, sidewalks, or blocking neighbors' driveways.
- Have non-alcoholic drinks and food conveniently located.
- Periodically walk outside to check the noise level and adjust it accordingly. Keep windows and doors closed.
- Keep your guests indoors, especially after dark when neighbors might be trying to sleep.
- Remind guests to be quiet when leaving and to leave containers at the door. This will limit litter in the area. Provide trash receptacles.
- Clean up the area around your house or apartment after the gathering.
- The Steubenville Police Department enforces open container laws; thus, leave all beverages indoors.

Do NOT...

- Serve alcohol to minors. As the host of the gathering, you would be in violation of State Law.
- Charge admission to the gathering. It is a crime to sell alcohol without a license. A first offense violation could bring you a hefty fine.
- Let your guests become intoxicated. Under the law, you may be held liable for any damages or injuries caused by a person who became intoxicated at your house.
- Overcrowd your apartment or yard. Overcrowding can cause (1) the blockage of exits, (2) illegal parking, (3) excessive noise, and (4) guests to inappropriately confuse the outdoors with bathroom facilities.

## **Trash Disposal**

- Pick up litter on you porch, lawn, and driveway. Your neighbors will appreciate the nice appearance of the house.
- Make sure you and your housemates know what day garbage is collected in your neighborhood. Do not put your garbage out before 6:00 p.m. the evening before your scheduled pick-up day.
- To prevent animals getting in your trash, use only containers with tight-fitting lids.

## **Landlord/Tenant Relations**

Landlords have the responsibility of providing a tenant with a safe and sanitary place to live which complies with local property maintenance codes. You as the tenant however, also have responsibilities, including keeping the property clean and free of junk or litter, cutting the grass, raking leaves and shoveling snow, and paying your utility bills in a timely fashion (unless other arrangements are made in your lease), and taking care not to damage the property. If a problem exists at your house or apartment, call your landlord first and give him the opportunity to correct the problem before calling the city. If you believe a code violation exists at your house or apartment and the landlord has not corrected the problem, call the Steubenville Planning and Zoning Commission at (740) 283-6000, ext. 1700.

## **Occupancy**

Remember that under local zoning laws, not more than two (2) unrelated persons are permitted to occupy a house or apartment unit, regardless of the number of bedrooms or the size of the unit. You can contact the Planning and Zoning Commission if you have any questions about occupancy.

## **Parking**

- Park your car legally-do not park on lawns or sidewalks, or in front of fire hydrants.
- Be careful not to block intersections, cross walks or neighbors' driveways.
- If you have a driveway or garage, use it. Don't park on the street unless it is really necessary.
- Be sure that your guests are aware of parking regulations and abide by them.
- Be considerate of your neighbors, they may need the space directly in front of their house, especially if they are elderly, disabled or just need to carry heavy items inside.
- Tell your guests about any parking needs your neighbors might have so conflicts can be avoided.

## **Pets**

- Pets must be kept on a leash when not at your residence.
- Dogs over 3 months old must have a license which you can obtain at the County Auditor's office.
- You must clean up animal waste and dispose of it with your trash pick-up.
- Don't allow a barking dog to disturb your neighbors, put the dog inside if necessary.

## **Safety & Security**

- Keep your residence and car locked at all times.
- Check your smoke detectors often and make sure they are working properly.
- When going out at night, take a friend with you.
- Watch for suspicious activity and report it to the Police Department.